

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 11 and 20 have been amended to better define the scope of the claimed invention. Claim 11 was amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1-19 have been allowed.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,141) in view of Hikita, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,407). Claim 20, as amended, includes the feature of first and second groups of bond pads arranged in an alternating manner with each member of said first group adjacent a member of said second group, and with the probe region of each said member of said first group adjacent the bond region of said adjacent member of said second group. Neither Bell nor Hikita, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest such a feature. For example, if the leftmost pads on chip D1 in Hikita's Figure 1 are taken as being a first group and the rightmost pads on D1 are taken as being a second group (note that the groups are not arranged in an alternating manner), and if in the arrangement shown in Figure 1 a pad in the first group is assumed to be adjacent to a pad in the second group (merely by virtue of being on the same chip), no pad in the first group has a probe region adjacent the bond region of the adjacent bond pad in the second group. Furthermore, there is no suggestion of such an arrangement in the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all of Claims 1-20. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Skrehot". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a long, sweeping "S" that extends to the right.

Michael K. Skrehot  
Reg. No. 36,682